

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A system and method for providing soft locks so applications can communicate their dependence upon PCPIs for a plurality of storage systems and applications. The soft locks, created and maintained by an application executing on one or more of the storage appliances, identify certain PCPIs that are to be retained by a storage appliance and its applications. An illustrative embodiment of this system and method is to use these soft locks to ensure that storage volume destinations along the cascaded chain of applications running on that or other storage systems retain the appropriate PCPI and state.